



THE GUILFORD GAZETTE



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Guilford Will Miss Paul Bruhn

BY RICK ZAMORE

Guilford lost an important friend and beloved benefactor with the passing of Paul Bruhn in September. Paul founded and directed the Preservation Trust of Vermont (PTV) for almost 40 years and, in that role he helped save, preserve, and renew historic buildings all over the state. Here in Guilford, Paul and the PTV were instrumental in revitalizing the Country Store, the Tontine Building, the Broad Brook Community Center, The Green River Crib Dam, and the Meeting House. Each of these projects needed a tremendous and sustained group effort by volunteers. Paul was a genius at inspiring people to work together to save the historic buildings and structures at the heart of every Vermont community, and to help volunteer organizations obtain the large amounts of funding required for renovation.

Paul was never without his sense of humor and was always fun to work with. His favorite words of encouragement, delivered with a chuckle, were, "Don't screw this up." His succinct description of his high school basketball career: "I was short, but I was slow." He was closely involved in the renovations in Algiers and kept Senator Leahy's staffers focused on a grant for Algiers by telling them that Marcelle Leahy was born in Guilford.

Katie Buckley worked very closely with Paul during her two years in Montpelier as a Commissioner for the Department of Housing and Community Development, and almost a decade of serving on his boards. She considered him a professional and personal mentor as well as a friend. "He touched every nook and cranny of the state and every



Paul Bruhn

Vermonters know his work, even if they didn't know Paul personally. He was a brilliant man. I still reach for the phone to call him two or three times a week, wanting his opinion with an issue, before remembering that he's not there." Katie remains on the board of PTV and says the organization is very strong, thanks to Paul's succession plan, talented staff, and sound finances.

Paul ran Patrick Leahy's first campaign for the U.S. Senate, then served for a while as his chief of staff, and they remained close friends. As Sen. Leahy has written, Paul knew that "historic preservation is not a cost for saving the past, but a wise investment in the future," and "his work on historic preservation is equal to the work that anyone has ever done for the State of Vermont."

At the memorial service for Paul, Sen. Leahy announced that the national program of federal grants meant to help historic preservation in small towns would be renamed the Paul Bruhn Historic Revitaliza-

tion Grants program. The tribute was co-sponsored by many Republicans and Democrats in the U.S. Senate. One of the very first Paul Bruhn Grants was awarded to Guilford's Broad Brook Community Center (BBCC) in the form of \$100,000 to help with the cost of a sprinkler system for the building.

Paul was very involved with the BBCC from its earliest beginnings, when he was one of the experts brought to town by the Vermont Council on Rural Development as part of the 2013-2014 Community Visit process, which identified the renovation of the Grange hall as the number one civic improvement that people in town wanted to see. He stayed involved and mentored the project through the design phase and into the capital campaign, and his invitation to the BBCC to apply for the sprinkler grant was the last of his many great gifts to Guilford.

Eric Morse got to know Paul Bruhn through the work of the Friends of Algiers Village (FoAV) to facilitate the renovation of the Tontine Building by the Windham Windsor Housing Trust. "Pat Good had just asked me if FoAV would be interested in buying the Country Store when Fred Humphrey and I went to the PTV Annual Meeting in Isle la Motte, to receive an award for the preservation of the Tontine Building. As Paul handed me the award, on stage in front of everyone, he said he wouldn't let go of it (or my hand) until he got a promise from FoAV to take on the Guilford Country Store as a project. What could I do? Of course, I said yes. Paul had a \$10,000 commitment for us by the end of the evening, for a feasibility study. That's the kind of guy he was."

The Guilford Gazette

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The *Guilford Gazette* is happy to print photos and articles submitted by the public. Please be aware that *the Gazette staff cannot be responsible for photographs and names printed without the permission of participants*. It is the responsibility of the writers and photographers to make sure they have permission to print.

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The Guilford Gazette is an all-volunteer newspaper that comes out four times a year. That's a big commitment for the four or five regulars on the staff, who take care of editing, production, advertising, printing and mailing it to every Guilford household. Here's how you can help:

- **Prepare the printed newspaper for mailing** by helping us with labels. If enough people show up, this only takes a few hours and it's a chance to socialize and get a sneak preview of the paper! Contact Cathi Wilken at the library [257-4603] to find out how you can help.

- **Send in articles.** This is a chance to let us know what your group, organization or business is doing in Guilford! Or perhaps you'd like to share a reminiscence, poem, or story with your fellow Guilfordites. Just limit your entry to no more than 650 words if you are sending a photograph with your article, or 700 words without a photograph. You can submit articles to the Gazette by email to gazette@guilfordfree.org, or you can send a printed copy to Susan Bonthron (108 S. Belden Hill Rd., Guilford, VT 05301), or Gazette c/o Guilford Free Library (4024 Guilford Center Rd, Guilford, VT 05301). Please DO pay attention to deadlines!

- **Join our staff.** If you have an interest in becoming a staff member who can help with editing, advertising or production, we'd love you to join us at our "second Thursday of the month" meetings at 9AM at the Guilford Country Store. Meetings start on time and last no more than one hour.

- **Donate.** The Gazette always welcomes donations of any size. They help pay for postage and printing. Checks made out to The Guilford Gazette should be sent to Guilford Free Library, 4024 Guilford Center Road, Guilford, 05301.

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Remembering Pooja

BY PATTY MEYER

Pooja Annalee Mishra Meyer was born near New Delhi, India in 2000. She recalls a father, an older brother and a mother until tragic circumstances left her an orphan. For four years she lived in an orphanage, always hoping for a new family. And then, 11 years ago, she jumped into Patty's arms, called her "Mum" and never looked back.

Pooja lived with Chris, Patty and her new siblings Aiden and Wynona here in Guilford, Vermont up on Bullock Drive. She loved snow, walking her dog, music, travel, cooking and eating scrumptious food. One of her favorite ingredients was avocado, as could be seen accompanying breakfast, lunch or dinner entrees of all sorts. She attended high school for one semester in India at a private school that her dad attended, and then graduated from Brattleboro Union High School this past spring. Her favorite subject was Art and she loved each one of the departments' talented instructors. She also studied Human Growth and Development and Nursing in the Windham Regional Career Center, which earned her certification to be an LNA. Pooja had been working as a Nurse's Assistant at the Thompson House in Brattleboro for the past five months. This was very hard work but also very rewarding. Pooja had

applied to CCV for the Spring semester and was excited about the courses she signed up for, including Photography, Math, English, and Psychology in preparation for an eventual bachelor's degree.

Perhaps Pooja's greatest passion beyond

at age 8, she had a camera in hand and related to everyone by taking their pictures for the next 11 years.

And then, on Sunday morning, December 8th, on Searsburg Road her car hit a patch of ice and she was gone, just a



Pooja Annalee Mishra Meyer

the love she enjoyed with her family and friends, was photography. She is reported to have grabbed aunties' phones in the Indian orphanage to take pictures of her friends. Upon arrival in the United States

quick slide into eternity. She will be forever remembered for her genuine smile, contagious laughter, artistic viewpoint, and the fierce love that she shared with many.



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Gratitude in Guilford

BY LISE SPARROW

While there was much that was new to celebrate, the Guilford Community Church, United Church of Christ, marked the official end to their three-year capital campaign with the age-old tradition of a community potluck on Sunday, January 12. Over 100 donors, more than one third from the larger community, provided just over \$250,000 in funds that will assure youth scholarships for service trips, upkeep of the physical plant for many uses and the financial stability of the church into the near future.

Over fifty years ago the congregation of what had, for over two hundred years, been the "Guilford Congregational Church" changed the name to the Guilford "Community" Church, emphasizing a revitalized commitment to the Guilford community. Twenty-five years ago, the church was moved and expanded to provide safety and space for children and community events and, more recently, extended its welcome to host weekly AA, Al Anon, Living Strong exercise and Tai Chi classes, rentals and multiple meetings held by local non-profits at the church. Just this year, the capital campaign combined with CC4G (Community Collaborative for Guilford) to create a community playground at the back of the church property that is open all day every day to local families.

With funds raised, the church was also able to double down on their ongoing commitment to creating an environmen-

tally sustainable building and property by adding solar panels and better insulation; tightening up the historical windows; upgrading window quilts; and clearing the property of debris and toxic materials that had been dumped in the distant past.

Of course, comfort and beauty were also considerations, so funds were put to re-



New playground at the GCC

modeling the Houghton Room, the primary meeting space for the building. New cabinets were constructed for storage and furniture was recovered to create a more harmonious space for gatherings. Every wall inside and outside was repainted, the pew cushions were recovered and the curtains made for the church by Wilma Higgins were altered to blend with the current color scheme.

For many, the replenishing of the church endowment while maintaining a balanced budget throughout the campaign was the most gratifying achievement! The church had drawn down on the endowment to pur-

chase the property next door, which is now open for parking and green space, and paying that off was cause for great satisfaction.

Finally, as the church looks to its future and the legacy left for young people in the community, the congregation takes great joy in knowing there are scholarship funds for local youth to participate on service trips into the future. The original funds, provided by Elva Pogar, have been replenished and, with other gifts, will allow these trips to continue. This March a group will make the fifth trip to Kenya to help with tree planting and construction of sheds for increasing numbers of cows at the orphanage the church has helped establish, and next summer, a group of youth and adults will travel for the

sixth consecutive year to the Cheyenne River Reservation in South Dakota, this year to help with construction of group foster homes for children in the La Plant community. Both trips are open to youth of all and no faith traditions.

The January potluck was just one moment in which the congregation was able to offer thanks to those who have made these improvements possible. It is hoped Guilford community members will find themselves in the building and on the playground for all kinds of events, knowing they were part of making the capital campaign a success.

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Guilford Cares Hires a Nurse

BY RICHARD DAVIS

It has been a year since a Guilford Cares nurse has been able to provide home visits and supportive case management, but that is about to change with the recent hire of Sandra Merz RN.

Sandy is a Brattleboro native with over 40 years of nursing experience. She will bring extensive geriatric experience with her as she makes home visits to some of Guilford's more vulnerable residents.

When Guilford Cares was founded by Susan Davis it was her intention to create a self-sustaining organization based on a model of community nursing.

She recognized that, although there are a number of supportive services available for people such as home health agencies, Senior Solutions and a wide variety of health care services, it may be difficult for people to access services

when they need them.

Davis felt that a small group of community volunteers could tap into enough funding sources to pay for a part time nurse who could make home visits, evaluate people's situation and then provide enough ongoing support to help them stay at home as long as possible.

That model has worked for a number of years but it has been hard to retain a nurse over time because of the small number of hours that Guilford Cares can pay for and the sporadic nature of the work.

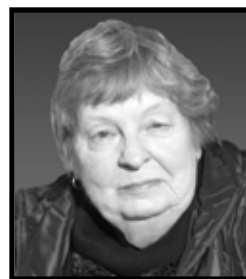
Sandy Merz feels that she has reached a point in her life where the Guilford Cares type of nursing employment is a good fit for her. She most recently worked for Bayada Home Health Care for 12 years. She also did home health nursing for Home Health-care Hospice & Community Services in

Keene, NH for four years.

Guilford residents will be able to benefit from the years of connections she has made with local human resource agencies as she

works to provide service and support. She is looking forward to working with Guilford Cares and noted that, "I want to try to help people and their families meet their needs to stay independent at home."

That has always been the mission of Guilford Cares and Sandy has embraced that philosophy for most of her nursing career.



Sandra Merz, RN

An Appreciation of Our Town Clerk

BY SHEILA MORSE

Penny Marine has been Guilford's Town Clerk and Treasurer for quite some time. I have worked closely with Penny over the years, as a former member of Guilford's Planning Commission and as a member of the Selectboard.

Penny has made the Town Office a reliable resource for all residents and others who need her services, all while performing the customary—and ever increasing—duties of a Town Clerk in Vermont.

No one can, of course, fully appreciate all that she does for our Town, but here are a few of her many accomplishments.

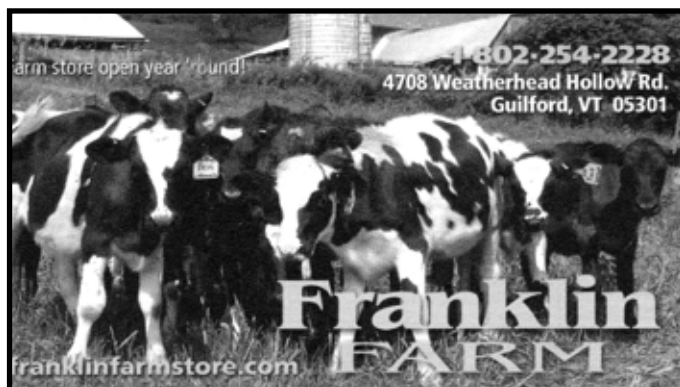
When she entered office, the amount owed in delinquent taxes was a relatively high percent of our annual budget. Penny took on the task of managing the process and collecting the taxes. She's collected hundreds of thousands of dollars in back taxes and keeps the total quite low, thus reducing the burden on the town and other taxpayers.

Penny is on top of every task, filing requirements, etc. She is a one-woman insurance, personnel, licensing, benefits, etc. expert who consistently finds ways to save the Town money.

Moreover, she is personable and pleasant, makes everyone feel welcome, and

treats everyone with respect. She is a patient and generous resource to all new town officials, elected and appointed, despite often having to review the same topic, materials, or issues on a repeat basis!

Penny is also an excellent mentor. I have seen her hire and train new staff, all of whom are immensely productive and quite loyal, and excellent assets to the Town. She leaves nothing undone and plans well for her absences, local votes, town meetings, BCA meetings, etc. It has been an immense pleasure to work with her these past many years. Thank you, Penny!



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Michael Nethercott Embodies the Spirit of the Stage

BY NANCY DETRA

If you see a bearded man working intently on his computer in one of the booths at The Works in Brattleboro, it may well be Guilford playwright, Michael Nethercott. He doesn't just write plays; Michael has tried his hand at nearly every aspect of theater: besides writing, he's directed, produced, costumed, set the stage, and acted. These days he even lives close enough to the Guilford Center Stage theater that, when he needs to "try out" a scene, he can walk over and pace it out on stage.

In his latest play, "Spirit of the Stage," he is also using his behind-the-scenes talents; he is directing and costuming. Rehearsals for the 14 actors will start in earnest in April - for performances on May 1-3. But Michael has already worked with a couple actors at a time to try out some of the scenes.

Fourteen is a large number of people for the small stage at Broad Brook Community Center, formerly the Grange, but if there are tricks to getting the most out of a stage, Michael knows them. In a previous play, he even managed to sink a ship in the same limited space. Over the years he's had a broad range of venues in which to work theatrical magic.

Michael has produced and directed plays with as few as one actor (himself) and as many 20 or more. He started out his career doing clown shows at camps and libraries. Sometimes he performed alone, other times "I plugged kids into various parts." Then in 1994 he launched the "Forest of Mystery" at Bonnyvale Environmental Center, consisting of magical nighttime outdoor performanc-

es in which players enact scenes along a wooded pathway, and the audience walks from one place to the next to follow the story. As many as a couple dozen performers might act in a Forest of Mystery tour.

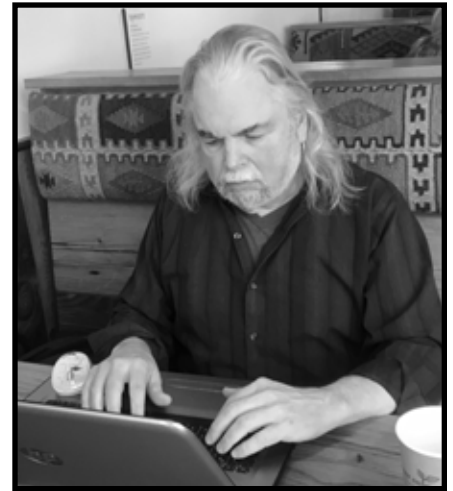
This spring's Guilford Center Stage production, "Spirit of the Stage," harkens back to the early 1930s, to the days of vaudeville. While the play is not a vaudeville performance itself, it tells the story of a group of vaudevillians who are facing the changes of that era. A number of different storylines are woven together, with a great deal of wit and humor.

Michael estimates about half the actors are Guilford residents; more than that are people Michael has worked with before. And the others are area players who Michael has been impressed by in local theater productions.

"When I wrote the play, I pretty much knew who the actors were going to be," Michael said. With the bare bones of a story in mind, he developed characters knowing the skills of each actor he hoped to feature. He also went through his burgeoning prop room at home and built the story with certain visuals in mind.

Michael emphasized the importance of community theater. He is enthusiastic about the opportunities that community theater offers, both in giving people a chance to try out or hone stage or backstage skills, and to do it close to home, while pursuing day jobs. Local productions offer actors, as well as writers, painters, set builders, lighting and sound people a chance to build camaraderie.

Community theater is fulfilling for Michael, too. Even working in a public place



*Michael Nethercott writes at
The Works in Brattleboro*

like The Works or the Guilford Country Store, writing is a solitary occupation. And when he writes a novel or a short story it generally ends up in the hands of lone readers.

"I may get a fan letter or a nice review... or a not-so-nice review," Michael said, laughing. But in theater, he gets immediate responses from both the actors and the audience. "It's very gratifying," he said.

"Spirit of the Stage" will be offered on Friday and Saturday, May 1 and 2, 7:30 pm; and on Sunday, May 3 at 2 pm. Broad Brook Community Center is at 3940 Guilford Center Road.

Advance tickets can be had by going to Brown Paper Tickets online and putting "Guilford" in the search box, or by calling 800-838-3006. All tickets are \$12.



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Grange's Sugar-on-Snow Supper Celebrates Farm Traditions

BY DON MCLEAN

For at least a half-century, the first Saturday in March has inaugurated the "Sugar Supper" season in Windham County. Broad Brook Grange in Guilford leads off the series, which includes two more Guilford suppers, and one each in West Brattleboro and Dummerston.

Guilford's Al Franklin, whose family were core organizers of the event, recalls that at one time the different suppers were somewhat randomly scheduled, and he contacted the other organizations, who agreed to fix their dates so that the different suppers wouldn't conflict. Al Franklin boiled the sugar at the Grange for many years, and that job is now handled by David Franklin.

The timing of the Sugar-on-Snow Supper is, of course, based on the hope that the maple sap will be running, and that there will be snow, on which to pour the hot, concentrated sugar, producing the distinctive, toffee-like dessert.

But the rest of the supper, whose menus are very similar at all the area events, is also based upon the calendar of the typical Vermont farm. Think of what foods were available on the farm in late winter:

Eggs: A signature item at the Grange supper is deviled eggs, homemade by a dozen or more Guilford cooks.

Ham: This cured meat was a winter staple on the farm, and is the centerpiece of the Grange supper.

Root vegetables: The root cellar would have yielded such late-autumn crops as cabbage and carrots—thus the Grange's coleslaw—and potatoes, which



Dwight Fitch, who grew up in Guilford, returns every year to run the box office.

Broad Brook Grange serves scalloped (butter and cream, of course, being available on the farm in March.)

With wheat flour in the pantry, the Vermont farm family could enjoy two important accompaniments to a late-winter meal: freshly-baked dinner rolls for the main course, and the classic fried donut served with the sugar-on-snow. The Grange supper features donuts made by a team of chefs working in the kitchen, and the rolls are masterfully produced by a Guilford baker just hours before folks arrive to enjoy them.

A staple of the winter diet on the farm is beans, harvested in the fall and dried. The Grange's baked beans, always popular, are made with such winter farm staples as salt pork, maple syrup, and molasses. And there was one more classic way of preserving summer produce for the long winter: canning and pickling. Guilford-made sour pickles are served as a way to cut the sweetness of the maple sugar.

By attending the sugar supper you'll be supporting the work of the Grange, which is a partner in the Broad Brook Community Center. You'll gather with neighbors and friends, and enjoy a great, late-winter meal. And you'll be celebrating the traditions of the resourceful farm families who "put their food by" for winter in former times.

Broad Brook Grange's annual Sugar-on-Snow Supper will be held Saturday, March 7, at the Broad Brook Community Center in Guilford. The meal features ham, baked beans, deviled eggs, scalloped potatoes, coleslaw, rolls, homemade donuts, Guilford pickles, and Guilford maple sugar on Guilford snow.

There will be three seatings: at 5:00, 6:00 and 7:00 pm. At each seating, a half-gallon of Guilford maple syrup will be raffled.

Tickets for the supper are: \$12 for adults; \$5 for children ages 5-12, and \$2 for kids age 4 and under. Reservations for a particular seating are recommended, as the earlier seatings often sell out in advance. A waiting list will also be kept, and those with reservations who cannot make it are asked to phone their cancellation. There are usually a few unreserved seats left for the 7 pm seating, for those who show up without a reservation. Reservations may be made by calling Thayer at 802-257-5359 or by e-mail: thayertomlinson@hotmail.com and you'll get a confirmation reply.

The Community Center is at 3940 Guilford Center Road, four miles west of the Guilford Country Store.



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What's a Leadership Council?

BY NANCY DETRA

Are you interested in how Guilford Central School is doing? Are you curious about what sorts of projects and programs the students and teachers are taking on? There may be a place for you on the school's Leadership Council, a new type of committee that will serve in each individual school, to put a measure of individual school oversight back in the towns, per the articles of agreement of the merged union.

Consider the position of the Guilford school in the new unified district. Remember that, against the wishes of a majority of voters in a 2017 vote, the Guilford school district was merged with Brattleboro's, Dummerston's, and Putney's districts. The new, unified school board has two representatives from each outlying town and four from Brattleboro.

People have wondered how a small town like Guilford will fare in this expanded scenario; the Leadership Councils were designed to provide a certain amount of oversight within the town.

I attended a meeting of the new Leadership Council (LC) in Guilford to see what the new committee's role will be in the life of the school.

The council is currently a six-member

committee, including former board members, teachers and parents (Alexis Moshovetis, Beth Bristol, Erin Tkacz, Hannah Salisbury, Tosha Tillman, and Amy Skolnick). The LC sees itself as acting in an advisory role to the unified board, according to Beth Bristol, chairperson for the council. It can help to make sure that the needs and accomplishments of the Guilford Central School are met and recognized in the broader landscape of regional administration.


Guilford was the first town to institute an active Leadership Council, according to Beth. The unified Windham Southeast Supervisory District board of directors is looking forward to having the councils take up some of the many responsibilities that it has inherited.

"There's no formal agenda (for the LCs) yet. We (Guilford's council) can set precedents for what the leadership councils do," says Beth. The meetings provide an opportunity to discuss what's happening in the school. Members of the council hear firsthand from the teacher-members what is working within the school's walls, and in the woodland classrooms and gardens. Since the unified board has just two Guilford representatives, who are not inside the

school on a daily basis, it is important that information gets back to the unified school board. Just how that will happen has yet to be determined. The LCs may send one of their members to each board meeting to give a report, or they may send a written communication to the board. In addition, a WSED board member may be assigned a visit with each leadership council, on a rotating basis.

The Guilford Leadership Council is looking for additional members. It is now operating with six members, and hopes to increase its number to eight or ten. Individuals interested in serving on the council are asked to send a letter of interest to Principal John Gagnon at jgagnon@wsesdvt.org.

At present the Guilford LC meets every second Friday at 1 pm, but "we didn't want to exclude the (greater) community," says Beth. The members decided to hold an evening meeting four times a year so that interested townspeople can attend and participate. On Town Meeting Day the LC will give a presentation to describe the programs at the school and to show a video of students and teachers at work.



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Skye and Geneva Morse walk out on a frozen Sweets Pond. Photo courtesy of Eric Morse

A Poem for Guilford Seniors

BY VERANDAH PORCHE

Stopping by Sweet Pond on a Snowy Evening*

after Robert Frost

dedicated to Al Franklin

Dark times. Take heart, abandon woe—
As streams join forces under snow,
Our ancient pond will reappear
Above the meadow. Trust the flow.

My little poem must linger here
To praise the pool of volunteers
Who flooded the state to give and take
One message, sweet to every ear—

What neighbors love we won't forsake!
O, Sweet Pond, may your peepers wake,
And new kids dare that happy leap
Of faith, from the rope swing, diving deep.

Such are the promises to keep
As waters ripple, clear and deep.

**This natural pond, called Spicer Pond on ancient maps, was later known as Franklin Pond, until purchased by the Sweet family in 1928.*

A stone dam, built in the late 18th century withstood the historic Flood of 1927 and the Hurricane of 1938.

In 2011, concern about the dam led to the drawing down of the water, shortly before Tropical Storm Irene.

The Vermont State Legislature, moved by the advocacy of area residents, voted funds to restore the pond. The dam is dedicated to Philip Franklin and his descendants, honoring their legacy in Guilford.

Fire Department Statistics

October:

7 fire
11 medical calls,
1 mutual aid

November:

7 fire
6 medical calls
4 mutual aid

December:

10 fire
7 medical calls
3 mutual aid

*At right:
Ice pancakes
decorate
the Green
River below
the covered
bridge.
Photo courtesy of Lois
Pancake*



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Happy New Year from the Guilford Historical Society

BY ELIZABETH LEVOCK

You may not know, but we hope you've noticed that the Guilford Center Meeting House has been freshly painted, thanks to a generous donation. Built in 1837, it served almost exclusively as a church for the Universalists until 1977 when ownership was transferred to the Guilford Historical Society. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Meeting House is a concert hall and event space with seating for over 200 people. Our attention now turns to the vaulted ceiling where the plaster has begun to fracture. Repairing the ceiling is necessary for the Meeting House to continue to serve the community and the Historical Society is asking for your support for this repair project. We are planning to apply for grants to help with the expense. With community support and donations to match these grants, we will achieve this goal. Estimates for repairs are in progress. Watch for updates.

Maintenance work on the Museum's

foundation and insulation, approved by the Town, has been delayed until spring. A window falling out in the front of the Museum is being repaired and replaced. A broken windowpane was recently replaced in the Meeting House as was the exterior light above the doors.

The Society wants to acknowledge and thank Michelle and Robin Frehsee for the many hours and years of service they have given to keep the Society and the Museum afloat. We also acknowledge and thank all past Trustees for time spent, especially Mimi Morton for her efforts this past year. We're also grateful for the support of the Guilford Library folks with a special thanks to Laura Lawson Tucker.

In this year of transition, we've lost many longtime people on the Board for various reasons. The Historical Society is currently running with fewer members. Our goals are to update the digital archive of the Museum's collection as well as to collaborate with other local Societies by sharing dis-

plays, programs and information. A huge focus of our work this year will be to inventory and catalog every item in our holdings using the latest technology. In November we met with the State Archivist from the Vermont Historical Records Program for ongoing consultation and recommendations to help expand and carry out the Society's mission in the modern world.

We're planning a community event for the spring to celebrate the opening of the Museum. Updates and more information will be coming.

Please consider joining the Guilford Historical Society as a member and/or Trustee. Our success relies on a team of folks and a community who want to learn about Guilford's unique historic treasures, have fun while doing so, and are proud of our local heritage. Come help enrich our Town. Contact us at guilford-history@google.com or visit us at Town Meeting.



Meeting House before and after



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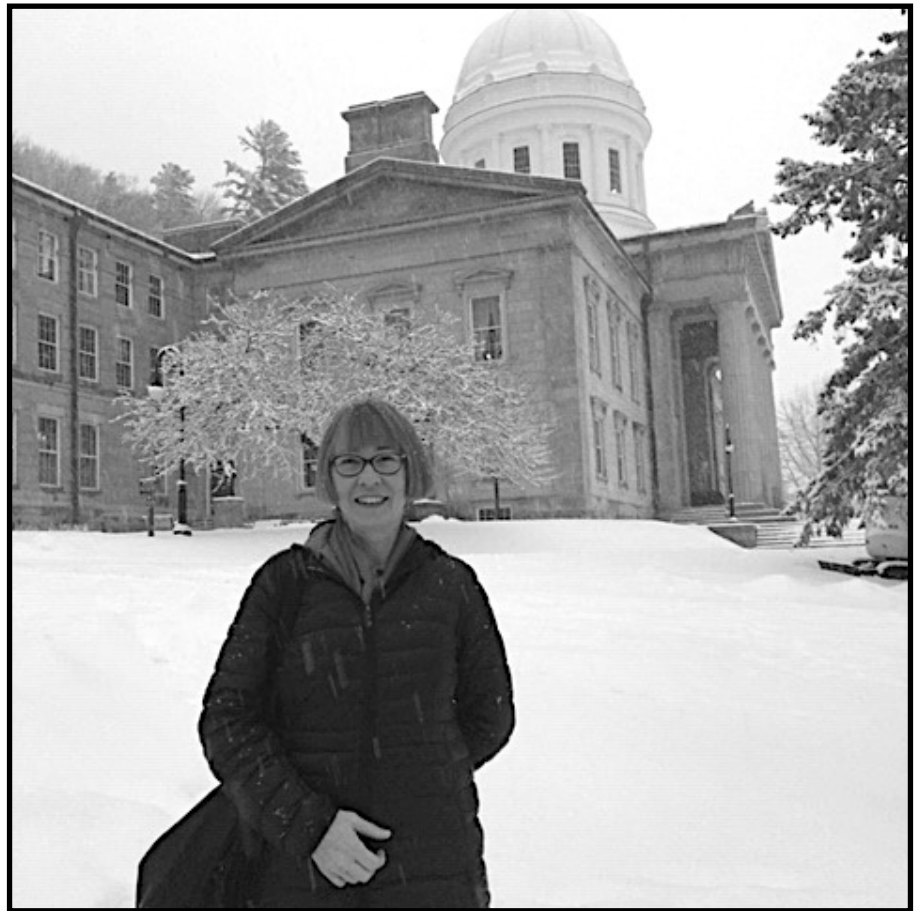
A Letter from Our Representative

BY SARA COFFEY

I want to thank everyone who has been engaged and working to make Guilford a great place to live and work. During the off-session I was busy attending community and legislative meetings. I appreciate hearing from folks and all those who responded to the issues survey I circulated earlier this winter. Since putting it out to community members, I've heard from many of you and have had the opportunity to learn about your priorities for 2020. These discussions have been a huge help. Thank you for sharing feedback.

As a new legislator I have focused my efforts on strengthening our rural economy, ensuring quality and affordable education and childcare, protecting our rivers, streams and lakes, taking steps to address climate change and reforming our criminal justice system. Some of the work is groundbreaking, and some of it is in the fine details, but all of it is in an effort to help Vermont families and communities thrive.

During the legislative session, I have regular coffee hours every month on the first Saturday in Vernon from 10-11AM at the Vernon Free Library and first Sundays in Guilford from 3-4 PM at the Guilford Country Store. They are informal forums where I will share updates, answer questions and listen to your ideas and concerns. I invite you to join me. I also send out regular updates from the State House. Feel free to stop by for a few minutes or for the full hour in either Vernon or Guilford at a time that works for you. And, if you'd like to receive my legislative updates via e-mail please



Sara Coffey in Front of the Statehouse Dome

sign up for my mailing list by signing up via my website www.saracoffeyvt.com. There you can also find updates on the blog section of the website.

As always, it's an honor serving as your Representative in the Vermont Assembly, and please be in touch. I can be best reached via email at SCoffey@leg.state.vt.us or by calling the State House at

(802) 828-2228 or by leaving a message for me on my home phone (802)257-0288.

I look forward to our discussions as the debates of 2020 get underway and look forward to seeing you at Town Meeting on Tuesday March 3rd.

With best wishes,
Sara Coffey, State Representative

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Guilford Holiday Market

BY SARAH ROSOW



On the evening of December 10, the Guilford School gym was packed with vendors and shoppers, and the parking lot was filled “beyond Town Meeting Day level,” according to one shopper. Cries of “Worm castings for sale!” “Are you looking for some dog treats?” and “Sorry, we’re all sold out!” rang out. Friends posed for photos in the photo booth; student musicians joyfully played their instruments; neighbors chatted cheerfully; children snacked contentedly on Grafton cheese, apples, and cupcakes; and everyone shopped to their heart’s content.

It was the first ever Guilford Holiday Market, and probably not the last. It was a unique event, including not only vendors from the local community, but also student vendors. Every class at the school created a business plan, developed a product utilizing local ingredients, and then produced it en masse to sell at the Market. There were worm castings, harvested from the Pre-K worm bin; peppermint tea, soap, bath bombs, doggie breath mints, and sugar scrubs made with dried herbs from the school garden; Doggie Delight biscuits made with local butter-

nut squash; Krave the Kraut sauerkraut made with cabbage and garlic from the school garden; Fresto Pesto made with local kale; beautiful beeswax wraps and evergreen wreaths--all made and sold by GCS students! Alongside the student vendors, there were vendors from the Guilford community including Chai Wallah, Jenifer Morier Pottery, Good Body Products, Song Sparrow Studio, Tapalou Guilds Farm, Rosemarie Robare, and Schneski’s Maple and Tree Works. There was a festive photo booth run by Nic and Joanna Wilson Phillips, and delicious snacks donated by Grafton Cheese, the Brattleboro Food Coop, and cupcakes from Top Tier Bakery.

The reaction from market visitors and vendors was overwhelmingly positive.

“It was really such a unique, energizing and heart-warming event to be part of. The kids made useful and beautiful products. You directly supported the local economy, and it became a place for people to gather, visit and connect,” said Hanna Jenkins of Tapalou Guilds, a local flower farm and market vendor.

“Our family had a lot of fun talking to students about their wares, listening to the musicians, eating sweet treats, hanging out with friends and neighbors and creating seed art at the craft table. A memorable event for sure!!!” said parent Jennifer Becki Wilcox.

Continued on page 13



At top: Student musicians playing joyful music at the market.

At Bottom: Fourth grade students pound cabbage that they grew to make sauerkraut.

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Holiday Market, continued

We'd like to extend a huge thank you to all of our vendors and shoppers for making this an exciting and successful event, and to the following sponsors for helping us cover our costs: LaRock Construction, Sidehill Farm, Reed and Sons Rubbish Removal, New England Center of Horsemanship, Guilford Country Store, Richmond Auto Repair, Welch Masonry, Gaines Family Farm, Goode-nough Rubbish, and Sugarhouse Wooden Toys.

Our first market was a joyous and memorable event and we look forward to making it even better next year! We'll see you there!



Kindergarteners proudly selling their mint tea.

New Welcome Garden at Guilford Central School

BY SARAH ROSOW

A grant from RiseVT provided Guilford Central School with the opportunity to plant a new Welcome Garden this past summer, transforming the tired beds of daffodils flanking the entry path into a lush sensory garden. We hired horticulturist and nursery owner, Helen O'Donnell of the Bunker Farm, to create a custom garden design for our site. Helen's design incorporated spring and

fall blooming plants that together engage all the senses. Windham Solid Waste Management District donated compost for the garden, and a group of teachers and farmers gathered in August to plant the new garden. Jeannie and Ray Walker donated a lovely bench from their property in Guilford, and Peter Welch donated stone and installed a winding pathway. Volunteers showed up to water and weed, and now we have a lovely new entry way garden that invites staff, students, families, and visitors to slow down, take a deep breath, and smile as they enter our school.

I've enjoyed watching students stop to sniff, touch, and taste the plants; bend down to observe a developing chrysalis; take a break on the bench as they take in their surroundings; hop along



the path; and admire the flowers. We invite you to come visit our new garden if you haven't seen it yet! Future plans include adding a bird bath and arbor.

Thank you to all who helped make this possible!

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Climate Change: What Can You Do?

BY VALERIE RACINE & MARK MCGEE

What impact does climate change have on our local communities and neighbors? For some, climate change seems like an abstract topic when you are trying to make sure you have funds to pay rent next month. Others express physical symptoms of stress and anxiety over the wellbeing of our planet and ultimately ourselves. As mental health providers, we see this broad spectrum of experiences across the state of Vermont. In fact, we witness a profound sense of powerlessness in our own community that leads to a felt sense of hopelessness.

As two informed humans raising a child in rural Vermont, we, too, have vacillated between a sense of powerlessness and questioning what achievable actions are readily available. Published reports can be overwhelming to read and overwhelmingly abstract. With clarity, the Emissions Gap Report states that the U.S. is tied with China in competing for biggest polluters. More specifically, greenhouse gas emissions have grown by 1.5 percent each year over the past decade leading scientists to declare that bigger and faster change is absolutely necessary.

On a more micro level, Vermont's carbon emissions are nothing to brag about. While Vermont vowed to reduce its 1990 carbon emissions levels by 25% by 2012, Vermont's 2018 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory reports that Vermont actually increased its emissions by 16 percent over 1990 levels. Despite statewide efforts, Vermont's rural living creates significant limitations for these lofty goals.

According to the 2017 Vermont Transportation Energy Profile, Vermont is ranked 11th in the United States for most miles



driven per resident. Gas guzzling and aging vehicles, a disproportionate number of tourists, and many commuting miles per resident result in 43% of the state's emissions credited to truck and car exhaust. Our reliance on wood burning heat and limited access to other heating sources also play a role.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports that greenhouse gas emissions of any kind need to be reduced by roughly 50% below 1990 levels by the end of the decade and completely eliminated by 2050 in order to prevent global warming of more than 1.5 degrees Celsius and averting environmental catastrophe of epic proportions. While these statistics may seem daunting, the ultimate goal of eliminating greenhouse gases can become tangible and achievable when each of us commits to an average annual reduction in our own individual and family carbon footprint of about 8% per year.

How can we become familiar with how our individual routines impact greenhouse

gas emissions? Given Vermont's transportation statistics, it might be useful to start there. Guilford currently has 1 mile of road serviced by public transportation. We clearly have some work ahead of us: expanding access to public transportation is not going to happen tomorrow. What if we don't idle our cars while we drop our kids off at school? Or while we wait at the drive-thru window? What if we don't warm up our vehicles before we leave our homes? It's estimated that people idle their cars an average of 16 minutes per day, amounting to \$116 in annual fuel expense. Eliminating the unnecessary idling of personal vehicles equates to taking 5 million cars off the road, per the U.S. Department of Energy. In fact, manufacturers now recommend not idling and instead allowing the vehicle to warm up while in use.

Most Vermonters drive by themselves. What opportunities are available for carpooling? Would you consider "trip chaining," completing multiple errands within one trip? If you are an Amazon shopper, can you choose Preferred Day Delivery and invite your neighbors to join you to do the same, thus reducing the number of delivery trucks traveling our roads? Can you reduce your thermostat by a few degrees and don a snuggie?

The threat of climate change is real, undeniably upon us, and requires an urgent response to prevent widespread environmental and social upheaval. We have our individual and collective work cut out for us. Examining our daily habits and how they impact climate change is our first step.

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Guilford Community Church Opens Shed to Collect Clothing

BY LISE SPARROW

Cleaning out your closets? Now you can bring your used clothing donations to Guilford Community Church, 38 Church Drive, Guilford, VT 05301.

Guilford Community Church is partnering with St. Pauly Textile Inc. to provide a wood-frame clothing drop-off shed for community use (see pictures). This shed is designed to give community members a uniquely clean, convenient, and well-cared-for option to donate their used clothing to.

St. Pauly Textile Inc. partners with a network of businesses and various organizations to distribute donated items both here in the U.S. and worldwide, where they are ultimately re-worn by people who need them. Guilford Community Church receives funding for donated clothing and has the option to use dona-

tions to serve community needs.

With over 1,100 clothing drop-off sheds in place, St. Pauly Textile Inc. collects over 90,000 pounds of clothing every day and estimates that this clothing ends up in 44 different countries (including the U.S.) yearly. In 2018, the company was able

to help keep over 20 million articles of clothing out of landfills. The company was founded in 1996 and is an A+ rated member of the Better Business Bureau.

Accepted items: clothing, shoes, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, curtains, pillowcases, and stuffed animals.

Mayotte Shows Appreciation to Guilford Volunteer Fire Department

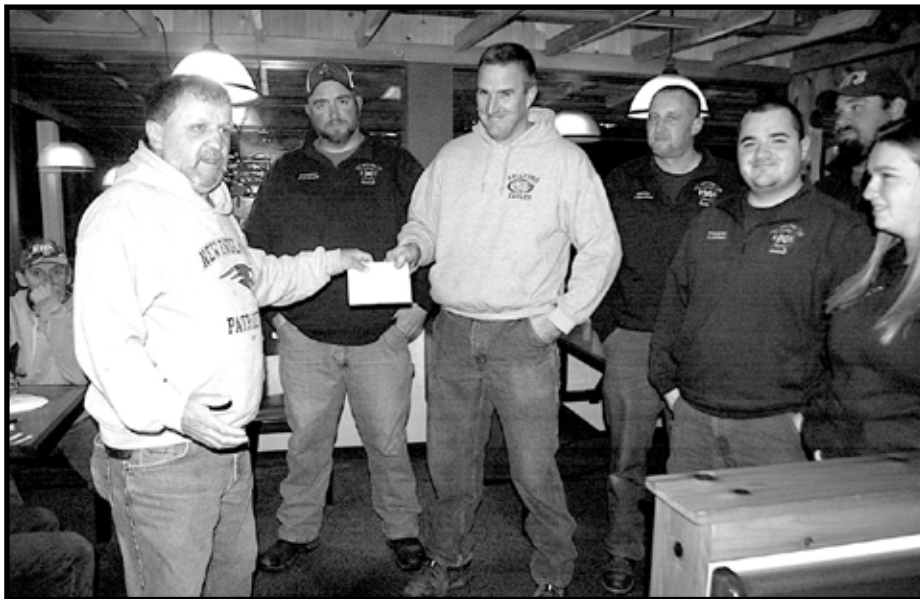
BY RICHARD DAVIS

One year after his business lost a pole barn and a truck to a fire, Chuck Mayotte, owner of Mayotte's Tree Service in Guilford, showed his appreciation to the Guilford Volunteer Fire Department for their efforts at the November 8, 2018 fire.

Mayotte hosted a free dinner for the fire department at House of Pizza in Brattleboro and presented Fire Chief Jared Bristol with a donation to the department.




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Broad Brook Community Center Nears Goal with Revitalization Grant

BY JAIME DURHAM

Broad Brook Community Center is taking big strides towards the finish line of its capital campaign. Since starting fundraising in 2016, the BBCC board has raised over \$1 million from foundations, state and federal grant and tax credit programs and individuals to renovate Guilford's historic grange hall and operate it as Guilford's community center for this and future generations.

Now BBCC is getting even closer to its \$1.35 million goal with the recent news that it is one of seven organizations in the state chosen to receive a Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant. This award from the Preservation Trust of Vermont is named after the late, beloved Executive Director of the Preservation Trust, Paul Bruhn, who was an early and staunch supporter of the Broad Brook Community Center project.

The Preservation Trust states "The Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant program is a \$7.5 million federal grant program created by Senator Patrick Leahy aimed at supporting rural revitalization of historic properties of national, state and local significance in order to restore, protect and foster economic development in rural villages and downtown areas. This project is supported through a grant from the Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program as administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior."

The \$100,000 that has been awarded to Broad Brook Community Center is earmarked for the new sprinkler

system, one of the major improvements planned for the second phase of renovations to the nearly 125-year-old grange building. This renovation holds the key to the building's longevity and sustainability. Besides a new sprinkler system, Phase 2 will include a lift to the second floor auditorium, a heating and cooling system to accommodate year-round use, preservation and weatherization of the historic windows, a code-compliant septic system, a more functional community kitchen, a basement, and beautification inside and out.

The BBCC had a lively 2019, operating the building with its first phase of improvements in place, which include a new ramp and entryway to meet ADA code requirements, new accessible bathrooms, fire safety improvements and kitchen upgrades. Events in 2019 included regular activities from the BBCC partners – the Guilford Town, Broad Brook Grange, and Guilford Cares – including community dinners, wellness classes, civic gatherings, theater performances, and a weekly food pantry. Additionally, the BBCC Board offered a

number of free rental days throughout the year to encourage community gatherings. In 2019, various Guilford residents took advantage of these Community Days to organize free events that brought people of all ages together at the Center. These included skill-sharing workshops, a harvest swap and contra dance, and community cooking.

The year also saw some changes to the board. They recently said goodbye to Gabby Ciuffreda, and would like to acknowledge and thank her for all her hard work. Two new members joined in the fall: Tosha Tillman and Diane Murphy. Tosha hails from Virginia, and brings with her a breadth of educational and arts leadership. Diane is a longtime Guilford resident and recently retired from a career with The Richards Group.


The BBCC looks forward to continuing to host its partners and offer rentals in 2020. Community Days will also be available in 2020. Contact broadbrookcc@gmail.com if you are interested in organizing a Community Day, rental, or with any other inquiries.

The community has shown a huge outpouring of support for the renovation, and the BBCC continues the push to reach the campaign goal. Please join your neighbors and support the Center so we can start renovations as early as June, 2020. Go to broadbrookcommunitycenter.org/donate to donate now.

The BBCC can also be found on Facebook and Instagram.




*Broad Brook Community Center, before and after
Phase 1 of renovations*



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A Special Thank You to Our Dedicated Gazette Team Members

BY NANCY DETRA

Three members of our Gazette team are leaving our ranks. We are so sorry to see them go, and will miss the expertise and tireless dedication they each brought to Guilford's town paper.

Michelle Frehsee has laid out and produced our paper. She taught us how to design a publication that was pleasing to the eye. Now she has stepped back into a less active role.

Linda Hay has written many excellent articles for the paper. She has been especially good at finding stories of historical significance to our town.

Carol Levin has been in charge of advertising. She has made sure the Gazette paid for itself by inviting local businesses to advertise in our paper, and keeping



Michelle Frehsee



Linda Hay



Carol Levin

track of our funds.

Thanks again, Carol, Linda, and Michelle. We wish you well with whatever you undertake.

Do you like to write? Do you have other

skills that you'd like to offer? The Gazette could use your help.

For more information, please call Nancy Detra at 254-4762. We would like to have you on our team!

FOMAG to Feature Carl Sandburg Program

BY JOY WALLENS-PENFORD

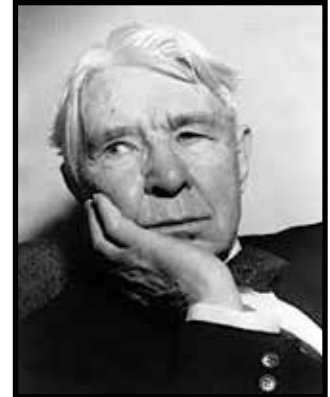
Friends of Music at Guilford's 54th season includes a Midwinter Musicale & Soup Supper beginning at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 29, at Guilford Community Church.

"CARL SANDBURG: POET, AUTHOR, FOLK MUSICIAN" is a multimedia presentation offering biographical information, a visit to his "Connemara" home and farm in Flat Rock, N.C., and performances of his poetry, prose, and a Rootabaga children's story.

A few words by others make clear his unique influence on the American expe-

rience through his Pulitzer Prize-winning poetry and Lincoln biography. Musical offerings include favorite folk tunes and ragtime piano. An extensive slide show accompanies the program; a few short recorded segments add to an overall sense of intimacy with the original "people's poet."

The teatime Soup Supper reception offers homemade soups, hearty breads, and sweet or savory treats. Admission of \$15 at the door includes the supper or just a nibble. For more information, contact the FOMAG office at 802-254-3600 or office@fomag.org; visit online at www.fomag.org.



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*Jay Meyer, Chelsea Meyer,
Kaiden Daniel Grier, and Herb Meyer*

Chelsea Brings Four Generations of Meyers Together

BY DIANE COOPER

Chelsea Meyer traveled to Vermont in November with her mother, Diane Cooper, so that her grandfather, Herb Meyer, and her father, Jay Meyer, could meet Kaiden Daniel Grier, their great grandson and grandson, for the first time. Kaiden was born Friday, September 13, 2019 at 12:11 am at Caromont Regional Medical Center in Gastonia, North Carolina. At

birth he weighed 7 pounds 4.8 ounces and was 20.5" long.

While in Vermont, Chelsea stayed with her dad, Daniel Wood, girlfriend Darlene and brother Austin Wood, and was able to visit with brother Ben Wood as well as other friends and family in Vermont and Massachusetts.



Zon Eastes Re-Ups for Selectboard

BY ZON EASTES

I was appointed to the Selectboard last September, to fill the seat of Sheila Morse. I have enjoyed an initial 'probationary period'. I've learned a lot and, if elected, look forward to continued learning and service to the town.

Broadband Survey Coming

BY SHEILA MORSE

Windham Regional Commission has a grant to conduct a regional broadband feasibility study. The study will be based on data collected from surveying all residents of Windham County.

The accuracy of the study depends on gathering the most and best data possible. This survey will be out in February. Please be on the lookout for this survey and complete it ASAP.

Verandah Porche Runs for 2nd 3-Year Term on Selectboard

BY VERANDAH PORCHE

My name is Verandah Porche. I work as a poet and writing partner with residents at Great River Terrace, and with Art in the Neighborhood, an afterschool program for children in Brattleboro's public housing. I am currently Vice Chair of the Guilford Selectboard, and I'm running for a second three-year term.

I remember my first Guilford Town Meeting 50 years ago as a mysterious theatrical event presented by men. I never imagined myself on the dais, let alone

deliberating twice a month on TV. I am grateful for the patience of the Board members who helped to orient me, and for the opportunity to listen and serve.

Currently, I am the Selectboard liaison to our Recreation Commission, a member of the Board of Civil Authority and also to the Cemetery Commission, and a volunteer at Guilford's Food Pantry. I believe in the generosity and energy of our town. I hope you will vote for me.

Rusty Marine for Selectboard

BY RUSTY MARINE

Hello, my name is Knute "Rusty" Marine and I am running for the remaining one year of a 3 year term as a selectboard member. I have enjoyed being a resident of Guilford for the last 32 years and in those years there has been a lot of changes in our town and I thought being a resident for that long it would be nice to be a part of the progress in this town.

Being retired for the last two and a half

years I know what it is to live on a fixed income and how budgeting your money is a big concern. With that being said I would like work with the other members of the selectboard to ensure that all of the town's money is being well spent and that we can save where we can without hindering the progress of our town. I would like your support. Thank You.

Rusty

Community Calendar

FEBRUARY

27 BDCC/SeVEDS Informational Meeting for Guilford Residents
6:30 pm An update on programs and projects, time for questions and answers. free

29 MIDWINTER MUSICALE & SOUP SUPPER -FOMAG
Carl Sandburg, Poet, Folk Musician.
3 pm, Guilford Community Church
Admission: \$15 includes supper or just a nibble. Information: 802-254-3600 or office@fomag.org; visit online at www.fomag.org.

MARCH

1 COFFEE WITH COFFEY
3 - 4 pm - Coffee hour with Sara Coffey, State Rep for Guilford & Vernon. Guilford Country Store

3 GUILFORD TOWN MEETING
10 am - Guilford Central School
Australian Ballot 10 am - 7 pm

7 SUGAR-ON-SNOW SUPPER
Broad Brook Grange at Broad Brook Community Center. Seatings: 5, 6, 7pm. \$12-adults; \$5-ages 5-12; \$2-kids 4 & under. Reservations: 802/257-5359, or e-mail thayertomlinson@hotmail.com

9 GAZETTE MEETING
9:00 AM - Guilford Country Store
Help plan the next issue

21 SUGAR-ON-SNOW SUPPER
Guilford Community Church
Seatings at 4:30, 5:45 & 7 pm. Prices are \$12 adults, \$6 children age 11 and under, and \$3 for preschoolers. Reservations: 254-9019 guilfordchurch@gmail.com.

APRIL

1 GAZETTE DEADLINE
Submit articles to gazette@guilford free.org

6 COFFEE WITH COFFEY
3 - 4 pm - Coffee hour with Sara Coffey, State Rep for Guilford & Vernon. Guilford Country Store

9 GAZETTE MEETING
9:00 AM - Guilford Country Store
Help work on the next issue

11 SUGAR-ON-SNOW SUPPER
Guilford Volunteer Fire Department.
Seatings: 5 pm & 6:30 pm - Reservations: 802-254-6841. Adults:-\$12. Children 6-12:-\$5, Children 5 & under-\$2.

MAY

1-3 "SPIRIT OF THE STAGE: A VAUDEVILLE PLAY" by Michael Nethercott. 7:30 pm on Fri. & Sat.; Sun. at 2 pm. \$12 general admission. Advance tickets & credit card sales: bpt.me/4495934. 1-800-838-3006. Guilford Center Stage, upstairs at Broad Brook Community Center.

3 COFFEE WITH COFFEY
3 - 4 pm - Coffee hour with Sara Coffey, State Rep for Guilford & Vernon. Guilford Country Store

3 GREEN UP DAY
7am to 1 pm - Get supplies at Broad Brook Community Center.

10 MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH
7am to 1 pm - Broad Brook Grange at Broad Brook Community Center. No reservations needed. Admission: \$12-adults, \$10-seniors, \$5-ages 2-12, under 2 years old-free.

11 FOMAG - 11th ANNUAL WOMEN IN MUSIC - THE BOSTONIANS
6 pm - Meal & concert in a private home, Tickets: \$20-\$35 Information and invitation at 802-254-3600.

MAY, continued

9 GAZETTE MEETING
9:00 AM-Guilford Country Store
Help work on the next issue

ONGOING

Most Mondays

• 11 AM FALL PREVENTION TAI CHI advanced beginners, 10 week session, 1/13/20 - 3/16/20, 4/6 - 6/8 (\$2) Guilford Community Church Info: <https://www.guilfordcares.com/tai-chi-class>

Every Tuesday

• 11 AM STORYTIME-Library
Cathi Wilken or Laura Lawson Tucker presents a program of songs, fingerplays, books and activities for babies, toddlers and older siblings (free) Info: 257-4603

2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month

•KNITTING CIRCLE 2-4 PM.
Guilford Free Library (free)

3rd Wednesday of the month.

• 6:30 PM TALK ABOUT BOOKS Library. Books are available to borrow from the library. (free).

Most Thursdays

• 10 AM FALL PREVENTION TAI CHI advanced beginners, 10 week session 12/26 - 2/27, 3/12 - 5/21 (\$2). BBCC Info:<https://www.guilfordcares.com/tai-chiclass>

• 11 AM FALL PREVENTION TAI CHI beginners, 10 week session 11/26 - 2/27, 3/12 - 5/21 (\$2) BBCC Info: <https://www.guilfordcares.com/tai-chi-class>

• 5-6 PM FOOD PANTRY BBCC
Info: call Pat Haine 257-0626

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ABOUT THIS COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

This newspaper is for you! We (the community volunteers) put together this newspaper for the community. We welcome your comments and questions. We hope that the Gazette provides a way for people in the community to communicate about local interests and goings on. Anyone can submit an article or letter to the editor--just put it in the Gazette Box at the library or the school, or mail it to The Guilford Gazette c/o Guilford Free Library, 4024 Guilford Center Rd, Guilford, VT 05301.

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Brothers Liam and Cyrus Eaton enjoy the ski gear provided by the Guilford Recreation Commission. Thanks for this awesome program!

